



Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association - www.vthockey.org

December 8, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA," File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

I live and work in St. Albans, Vermont. It is a small community with around 10,000 people. We are a working class community that has a strong sense of pride and commitment to our family, friends and neighbors. I have been active in youth sports in St. Albans as a child and now as an adult for more than thirty years. My roles in sports has been as a player, coach, father, and administrator. Our small community has a lot of pride in their athletic programs. Over the years high school football, basketball and hockey games would be broadcast over our local radio station. When that was bought up by a larger corporation and eventually closed the community lost a piece of their pride and uniqueness. We went several years without any local live coverage of our athletic events. With the support of some local businesses, volunteer efforts and Northwest Access TV they have brought back live video broadcasts of several high school sporting events. Our local PEG Access center provides equipment and professional advice for the broadcast teams and sports team. Northwest Access TV provides equipment for most sports teams to record their games. Football, hockey and basketball games can be watched live using their equipment and technology. The support of local sports is unprecedented and truly has enhanced the community.

Recently this past winter, I utilized their equipment and support to provide a live broadcast of the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Associations championship weekend. This was the championship tournament for kids ages nine to fourteen. With their support we pulled together two days worth of live hockey games broadcast online free of charge. We had viewers from all around the world watching this small town host the culminating event for youth hockey players



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in our state. The live chats and discussion were inspiring. It was automatic hit for our youth hockey community. We are looking forward to connecting with the Rutland PEG Access channel as we host our next championship weekend. Without the help of Northwest Access TV, we would not have any local support of youth athletics. It is imperative that we keep PEG access available and affordable for our community.

This local presence enables the residents of our St. Albans, VT to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

John Cioffi
Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association President
USA Hockey Affiliate